

### **REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed May 19, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 2, 5 – 11 and 14 – 18 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 10 and 14, and has canceled claims 3 – 4 and 12 - 13 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 3 – 4 and 12 - 13 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

### **In the Drawings**

The Office Action indicates that the drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5), because they include reference signs not mentioned in the description. In this regard, Applicant has reviewed the specification and has determined that reference numeral 210 appears in the specification, *i.e.*, at page 6, line 27. However, it appears that reference numerals 260 and 360 do not appear in the specification. Therefore, Applicant submits herewith corrected drawings that remove these reference numerals, and respectfully request that the correct drawings be entered.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 - 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Onaga* in view of *Flyntz*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

With respect to claims 4 and 13, the Office Action indicates that *Onaga* discloses “reading marks on documents processed by the peripheral devices (col. 3, lines 46 – 67 and col. 10, lines 25 – 30)” and “identifying by the marks the documents to the central device (col. 3, lines 46 – 67 and col. 10, lines 25 – 30).” Applicant has reviewed the aforementioned sections, as well as the remainder of the *Onaga* reference, and respectfully asserts that *Onaga* does not teach or reasonably suggest various features/limitations presently cited in Applicant’s claims. In particular, Applicant notes that the cited portion of *Onaga* discloses:

A work group administrator is allowed to control settings relating to how a corresponding work group uses the peripheral, including work group address books, letterhead features, watermarks, etc.  
(*Onaga*, col. 3, lines 53 – 56).

*Onaga* also discloses:

A work group administrator is allowed to read and change settings relating to how a corresponding work group uses intelligent peripheral device, including work group address books, letterhead features, watermarks, *etc.* Thus, a work group administrator may be given restricted read/write privileges over these manageable data objects.  
(*Onaga*, col. 10, lines 25 – 30).

As will be described in detail below, Applicant respectfully asserts that the aforementioned disclosure is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating and/or rendering obvious the features/limitations recited in Applicant’s claims.

With respect to independent claim 1, that claim has been amended to recite:

1. A method of allocating use of peripheral devices in a network system comprised of:  
identifying users in the network system to a central device;  
providing peripheral device access limitations to the users by the central device, wherein the peripheral devices perform document processing;  
informing the peripheral devices of the access allowed to users by the central device;  
***reading marks on documents processed by the peripheral devices;***  
***and***  
***identifying, by the marks, the documents to the central device.***  
(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. For example, it appears that *Onaga* generally discloses the use of watermarks and access to such watermarks by users. However, *Onaga* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations of “reading marks on documents processed by the peripheral devices,” and “identifying, by the marks, the documents to the central device,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 and 5 – 9 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 10, that claim has amended to recite:

10. A network system controlling and managing resource usage comprised of:
  - a central device accessible by one or more users; and
  - one or more peripheral devices, wherein the peripheral devices process documents, wherein the central device provides information to the peripheral devices as to access by the users, and ***wherein the documents are given a mark read by the peripheral devices and identified by the central device.*** (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 10 is in condition for allowance because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 10. For example, it appears that *Onaga* generally discloses the use of watermarks and access to such watermarks by users. However, *Onaga* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations of “wherein the documents are given a mark read by the peripheral devices and identified by the central device,” as recited in claim 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 11 and 15 - 18 incorporate all the

features/limitations of claim 10, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

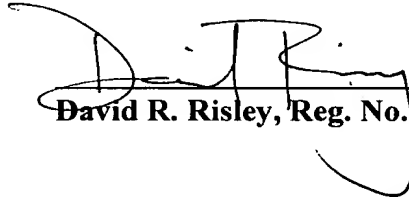
**Cited Art Made of Record**

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

## CONCLUSION

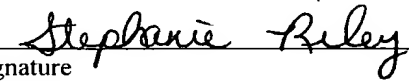
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 – 2, 5 – 11 and 14 – 18 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 7/8/04.

  
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Signature